

1 18. (amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the data identifying  
2 a user and a print job comprises packet data including a user login name and  
3 password.

as  
2 19. (amended) The method of claim 18 wherein the step of  
3 collecting packet data is carried out at a client personal computer, and further  
4 comprising generating a transaction data file including cost accounting  
5 information and generating a data file in the memory of the image forming  
6 device correlating the data identifying the user, the print job, and the cost  
accounting information.

ne  
1 20. The method of claim 16 wherein the step of generating a print  
2 job comprises requesting a print job from a client computer and forwarding the  
3 request over a local area network to the image forming device.

A marked-up version showing amendments to any claims being changed is provided in one or more accompanying pages separate from this amendment in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

#### **REMARKS/ARGUMENT**

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-20 are pending in the application and that claims 1-20 are rejected. By this amendment, claims 1, 3-6, 10, 16 and 18-19 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-20 remain pending in this application.

#### **Corrected Drawing**

Amendment has been made to Figure 2 to correct the omission of reference numeral "42". Support for such amendment is found at page 10, lines 28-31, and page 11, lines 1-5, of the originally filed application.

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A substitute sheet containing Figure 2 has been submitted concurrently herewith by separate paper entitled "Drawing Transmittal Letter". A courtesy copy of such Drawing Transmittal Letter, with both a red-lined and corrected formal drawing of Figure 2, is attached hereto. Indication of the acceptability of such formal drawing is respectfully requested.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-16, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Davidson, Jr. et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,025,925). Independent claims 1, 10 and 16 have been amended (along with selected dependent claims). The remaining dependent claims have been indirectly amended by way of dependency on the amended independent claims.

Rejection of claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-16 and 18-20 is believed to be overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 4, 11, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Davidson* as applied to claims 1, 10 and 16 above, in view of *Motamed* (U.S. Patent No. 6,356,359). Independent claims 1, 10 and 16 have been amended (along with selected dependent claims). The remaining dependent claims have been indirectly amended by way of dependency on the amended independent claims.

The Examiner asserts that *Motamed* teaches information usage in a printer is provided to a client via a network. However, Applicants traverse this assertion because *Motamed* teaches the estimation of toner usage (see Col. 3, lines 19-24, as well as Col. 5, line 30). Applicants have identified this as a problem with the prior art as stated in the Background section of the present application.

Rejection of claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-16 and 18-20 is believed to be overcome. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

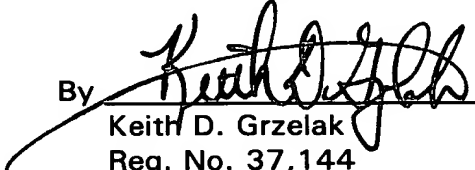
**CONCLUSION**

For all the reasons advanced above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next anticipated action is to be anything other than a Notice of Allowance, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview before issuance of any such subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT APPLICATION  
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INVENTOR(S): William K. Meade II; Clint S. Cuzzo; and Paul Leclerc

SERIAL NO.: 09/393,724

GROUP ART UNIT: 2624

FILED: September 10, 1999

EXAMINER: Douglas Q. Tran

SUBJECT: "Hard Copy Cost Recovery Systems, An Apparatus for Tracking Usage Information for a Hard Copy Device, Hard Copy Devices, and a Usage Accounting Method"

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE  
IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JULY 26, 2002**

**In the Claims:**

Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 16 and 18-19 have been amended as follows  
(deletions are struck through and additions are underlined):

- 1 1. An apparatus for tracking usage information for an image
- 2 forming device, comprising:
- 3 an image forming device;
- 4 processing circuitry associated with the image forming device;
- 5 computer program code implemented on the processing circuitry and
- 6 operative to detect consumable usage information- count page-area and toner
- 7 coverage at the image forming device collected on a print job-by-print job basis;
- 8 and

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9 memory coupled with the processing circuitry and operative to store a  
10 data file containing the user information, the output job information, and the  
11 usage information comprising total page area used and toner used.

1 3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the ~~information of~~  
2 ~~consumables~~ total page area comprises paper usage and the output job  
3 information comprises information detailing a print job.

1 4. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a tracking  
2 apparatus configured to implement hybrid pull-push data gathering of transaction  
3 details from the image forming device including consumable usage information ~~2~~  
4 ~~wherein the information of consumables comprises toner usage.~~

1 5. The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising a plurality of image  
2 forming devices, and wherein the tracking apparatus polls the image forming  
3 devices to collect transaction details at each of the image forming devices, and  
4 wherein at least one of the image forming devices is configured to push the  
5 transaction details to the tracking device, if not polled, prior to a memory  
6 overflow event occurring on the at least one image forming device ~~1 wherein the~~  
7 ~~usage information of the data file includes data packets containing consumable~~  
8 ~~usage information.~~

1 6. The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising a user interface  
2 configured to receive unique user identification information from a user at the  
3 image forming device, wherein the processing circuitry receives the user  
4 identification information and merges the user identification information with  
5 cost data upon job completion ~~1 further comprising a local area network (LAN)~~  
6 ~~and a client computer, wherein the client computer and the image forming~~  
7 ~~device each communicate with the local area network (LAN).~~

1                   10. A hard copy output device usable with a local area  
2 network (LAN) and a client computer, comprising:

3                   processing circuitry communicating with the hard copy output device  
4 and operative to receive LAN data packets from the client computer over the  
5 LAN that ~~identifies~~ identify a user and a print job; and

6                   memory coupled with the processing circuitry and operative to store a  
7 data file containing the LAN data packets and consumable usage information  
8 including actual toner usage.

1                   16. A method of accounting for consumable usage for an image  
2 forming device, comprising:

3                   collecting data identifying a user and a print job;

4                   storing the data in a memory of the image forming device;

5                   generating a print job with the image forming device;

6                   determining consumable usage data including actual toner usage at  
7 the image forming device; and

8                   storing the consumable usage data in the memory of the image  
9 forming device.

1                   18. The method of claim 16 wherein the data identifying a user and  
2 a print job comprises packet data including a user login name and password.

1                   19. The method of claim 18 wherein the step of collecting packet  
2 data is carried out at a client personal computer, and further comprising  
3 generating a transaction data file including cost accounting information and  
4 generating a data file in the memory of the image forming device correlating the  
5 data identifying the user, the print job, and the cost accounting information.

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